

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of training a quality assessment tool comprising the steps of

dividing a database comprising a plurality of samples, each with an associated mean opinion score, into a plurality of distortion sets of samples according to a dominant distortion criterion present in each sample; and

training a distortion specific assessment handler for each distortion set, such that a fit between a distortion specific quality measure generated from
a distortion specific plurality of parameters for a sample and
the mean opinion score associated with said sample
is optimised.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of
training the quality assessment tool, such that a fit between a quality measure
generated from

a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters together with a distortion
specific quality measure for a sample, and

the mean opinion score associated with said sample, is optimised.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.

4. (Previously Presented) A method of assessing speech quality in a telecommunications network comprising the steps of
 - determining a dominant distortion type for a sample;
 - ~~combining~~using a distortion specific assessment handler to combine a plurality of parameters specific to said dominant distortion type to provide a distortion specific quality measure for each sample; and
 - generating a quality measure in dependence upon the distortion specific quality measure.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 in which the generating step comprises the sub step of
 - combining a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters with said distortion specific quality measure to provide said quality measure.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4 in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.
7. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 1.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for assessing speech quality in a telecommunications network comprising
 - means for determining a dominant distortion type for a sample;

means a distortion specific assessment handler for combining a distortion specific plurality of parameters to provide a distortion specific quality measure for each sample; and

means for generating a quality measure in dependence upon the distortion specific quality measure.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, in which

the generating means comprises means for combining a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters with said distortion specific quality measure to provide said quality measure.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for training a quality assessment tool comprising

means for dividing a database comprising a plurality of samples, each with an associated mean opinion score, into a plurality of distortion sets of samples according to a dominant distortion criterion present in each sample; and

means for training a distortion specific assessment handler for each distortion set, such that a fit between a distortion specific quality measure generated from
a distortion specific plurality of parameters for a sample and
the mean opinion score associated with said sample
is optimised.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising

means for training the quality assessment tool, such that a fit between a quality measure generated from

a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters together with a distortion specific quality measure for a sample, and

the mean opinion score associated with said sample,
is optimised.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5 in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 2.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 3.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 4.

Claims 18-20 (Cancelled)